

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087318

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT APRIL 29 PRESS BRIEFING: US-
PORTUGUESE RELATIONS

1. PERTINENT EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

BEGIN QUOTE

Q.: HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRONOUNCED A POSITION ON
DIPLOMATIC DEALINGS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN LISBON?

A: ON APRIL 27 THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON
DELIVERED A NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCING THE ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF A JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION IN PORTUGAL
AND DESCRIBING THE JUNTA'S PLAN FOR THE REORGANI-
ZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. THIS MORNING, THE DEPARTMENT
DELIVERED A REPLY TO AMBASSADOR THEMIDO ACKNOWLEDGING
HIS NOTE, AND THIS MARKS THE CONTINUATION OF OUR RELATIONS
WITH PORTUGAL, WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

Q: TO WHOM WAS THE NOTE TRANSMITTED AND IN REPLY TO WHOM?

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 087318

A: IT WAS FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF

STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, WELLS STABLER, TO THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR.

Q: NOW, JUST TO PURSUE THAT, HAS THERE BEEN ANY INTERRUPTION AT ALL OF U.S. RELATIONSHIPS WITH PORTUGAL IN ANY WAY DURING THIS PERIOD?

A: NO. AS I JUST SAID, THIS MARKS CONTINUATION WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP, THE WORKING GROUP THAT WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE TIME OF THE JUNTA'S TAKE-OVER, HAS THAT BEEN DISBANDED?

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL WORKING GROUP AT THIS TIME.

Q: HAS PORTUGAL MADE ANY SHIFT OF PERSONNEL OR SHIFT OF POSITION IN ANY WAY IN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE? DOES IT STILL HAVE THE SAME AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS?

A: I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT LAST POINT. WE DO KNOW THAT THE LEADERS, THE NEW LEADERS, OF PORTUGAL HAVE DECLARED THEIR INTENTION OF RESPECTING PORTUGAL'S INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS. AND I ASSUME THIS APPLIES TO PORTUGAL'S ADHERENCE TO NATO.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES SEE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN THE CHANGE IN LISBON FOR OUR POLICY TOWARD AFRICAN STATES, STRATEGIC OR OTHERWISE?

A: WELL, FIRST WITH RESPECT TO OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION SHOULD BE THE GOVERNING FACTOR.

NOW, WITH RESPECT TO REALLY THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION ON POSSIBLE COURSES THAT THE NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE TOWARDS AFRICA, AND THEIR TERRITORIES

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 087318

IN AFRICA, AT THIS POINT, WE ARE AWARE OF COURSE OF SOME OF THEIR PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE PREVIOUSLY, BUT I QUITE FRANKLY THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY EXACTLY HOW THIS MIGHT BE APPLIED. END QUOTE RUSH

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